

**Lease No. A-035017
EA No. AK-040-00-002
West Forelands No. 1 Well**

**Finding of No Significant Impact and Decision Record
for
Forcenergy Inc, Environmental Assessment for the
West Foreland #1 Well**

Decision:

The decision is to implement the Proposed Action as described. Although the access road was unauthorized, the Environmental Assessment (EA) analysis indicates no unacceptable impacts. The applications for pipeline construction and facility construction/installation are in accordance with the lease terms and federal regulations. These applications will be approved as submitted with the additional mitigation described in the EA under section V.

Rationale for the Decision:

In general, the BLM would have little or no control over a road crossing surface owned by the Salamatof Native Association (Salamatof) for the purpose of accessing a private facility. Therefore, the access road would be built regardless of BLM's decision. Salamatof and the Cook Inlet Regional, Inc. (CIRI) have approved the road construction and the EA analysis indicates no unacceptable impacts associated with the access road, pipeline, or production facilities. The West Foreland #1 (WF #1) well is remotely located and has remained shut in since being drilled in 1961. The use of this gas for fuel to maximize oil and gas recovery in the West McArthur River Unit (WMRU) is in the public and national interest. Continued development of the WMRU field is necessary to effectively and efficiently maximize recovery of the proven hydrocarbon reserves. Continued domestic production decreases the dependency of the United States on imported fuels. Further development will ensure a continued heating, electrical and fuel source for much of Alaska. Gas reserve recovery from the WF #1 well can be accomplished with minimal environmental impact.

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI):

I have reviewed this environmental assessment including the explanation and resolution of any potentially significant environmental impacts. I have determined that the Proposed Action will not have a significant impact on the human or natural environment and that an EIS is not required. I have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the lease terms and the requirements of 43 CFR 1610.8 (b) (1). It is my decision to approve the proposed drilling projects subject to mitigation measures described below.

Mitigation Measures:

Additional mitigation measures are described in section V. of this environmental analysis. These conditions specify requirements to minimize environmental impacts. Standard conditions for compliance with the onshore operating orders and federal regulations will also be attached.

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ANILCA Section 810 Compliance:

No significant restrictions of subsistence uses under Section 810 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act have been identified for the Proposed Action. No federal surface is involved. The surface is owned by Salamatof and private native allotment owners. The divided mineral estate is owned by CIRI (94.2%) and the United States (5.8%) and administered under the 1920 Mineral Leasing Act by the United States.

Implementation, Compliance and Monitoring Plan:

The operations authorized under the Sundry Notice permits will be monitored for compliance with federal regulations, onshore orders, conditions and/or procedures identified in the Proposed Action. At a minimum, future production operations will be monitored according to the requirements of the National Inspection and Enforcement Strategy.

(Signed Nick Douglas)
Anchorage Field Manager

(12-17-99)
Date